



THE
JEWISH
GAILY

FORWARD

JULY 1984

TAMMUZ/AV 5744

A Home at Last



The Torah Procession into our new home, May 20. Irene Ogus, followed by other members of the Building Steering Committee: Sharyn Saslafsky, Allan Berenstein, Allan Gold (partially hidden), Paul Cohen, Ron Lezell, Cheryl Orvis, Ron Wolberg (partially hidden), Walt Leiss and Frank Hyman.

PHOTO BY YOLANDE SCHNEEMAN

Coat of Many Colors?

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE has embarked on developing a lecture series for the enjoyment of the Congregation and the community and is pleased to announce the inaugural lecture: "What Is a Coat of Many Colors Anyway: Positive Views of Homosexuality in the Bible," which will be presented Tuesday, July 17, 7:30 p.m., at the synagogue. The guest speaker is Jodi Hirsch, noted scholar, lecturer and specialist in Hebrew literature. Mr. Hirsch has taught at Hebrew Union College and the University of Judaism. He currently serves as Associate Director of the Bureau of Jewish Education here in San Francisco. Mark your calendar and tell your friends. The lecture is free and is open to the entire community. It should be an exciting kickoff to this phase of our developing educational program. An informal reception will follow.

All Family Coalition Meets Falwell Forum

WHAT IS WRONG WITH HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS is one of the topics at Family Forum III, organized by the Free Congress Foundation and the Moral Majority Foundation, with the participation of Jerry Falwell, Phyllis Schlafly, William Bennett, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Dr. Everett Koop, the Surgeon General. This conference is scheduled for July 12 and 13 in San Francisco, just before the Democratic National Convention, and again in Dallas, for the Republican Convention.

Their publicity states that "For too long, we have permitted the liberal welfare establishment to assume the social responsibilities that rightfully belong to us. Not only has this drained our economy, it has crippled the spirit of independence, hopes and dreams that make this nation great. Now, more than ever in America's history, it is critical that the roles be reversed."

Understandably, many groups will be responding to the message being publicized by this conference. The Va'ad has decided that it is important that Sha'ar Zahav respond to their message as well. We are lending our support to a group called the All Family Coalition, comprised of some 40 organizations pulled together by the Parsonage, which is an organization of gay and non-gay Episcopalians. The All Family Coalition has planned a number of activities to

March to Moscone

Sha'ar Zahav will be participating in the National March for Gay and Lesbian Rights planned for Sunday, July 15. The march is backed by almost every major gay and lesbian organization, national and local, and is scheduled to coincide with the opening of the Democratic Convention in SF. It is estimated that some 100,000 people will be involved. We will be assembling in the Castro area on Sunday morning and marching down Market Street to Moscone Center. More details will be announced at services in early July. Eric Keitel is coordinating our involvement in the march and can be contacted at 821-4257.

President's Column

WITH GREAT JOY AND PRIDE, and in anticipation of a wonderful year ahead, I become president of Sha'ar Zahav. Through effective leadership and dedicated members, this Congregation, in its seven years of life, has become a caring community, a viable force and a beacon in the gay/lesbian and Jewish communities locally, nationally and world-wide. To the surprise of many, sometimes even ourselves, we have successfully completed every task we have undertaken and met every challenge set before us. We have engaged the world on our own terms, integrity intact, and have earned its respect. I hope and trust that each one of you is justly proud of your affiliation with Sha'ar Zahav.

Now, with a solid membership of well over 200, a full and rich ritual life, a home of our own, an active rabbinic search process and the continuing dedication of our talented members to work for the good of the Congregation, I want us to further expand our horizons. Much work has been done on our building in terms of needed repairs and beautiful renovations. I want that work to continue and plan that this year we will undertake the renovation of the second floor and the Bima. We can develop richer and more diverse programming with regard to education, e.g.

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Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll, Bob Goldware, Irene Ogus, Marilyn O'Keefe and Leila Raim (editorial and production), Bert Benderoff, Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alita Rosenfeld (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Cole Valley Graphics and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads (for members only) are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

classes, lectures, films, panels, speakers' bureau; social action, more diverse involvement with civic, gay/lesbian and Jewish issues; and social activities, e.g. picnics, parties, dances, theatre groups, trips. We can revitalize our long-range planning by developing a five-year outlook, and by studying such vital future needs as children's Jewish education and elderly care and housing for gay/lesbian Jews.

In order to accomplish our goals we need funding and person-power. I expect us to address the funding issues in several ways: encourage the non-affiliated to join us; motivate members to increase dues pledges when possible — according to UAHC recommendations, to be fiscally sound, 80% of our total income should be from dues; and develop ongoing fund-raising mechanisms and activities through the organization of a Ways and Means Committee.

The matter of person-power is very exciting! I dare say each of you has at least one idea for enriching our programming or making Sha'ar Zahav run more smoothly. Please don't sit there and mumble into your chicken soup, "Why don't they...?" First of all, don't separate yourself by saying "they"; say "we"! Once you include yourself we are all on the way to better communication, better process and better results. If you say "we," you are more likely to turn your good thoughts into action. The action I suggest is to get involved! Write your suggestion to the appropriate committee or directly to me. It will be appreciated, and you will get a response. You may well be asked to help make things happen: be prepared, and understand that the best ideas will lie fallow without people working together to make them reality. Read the *Gaily Forward* to learn what each committee is doing, what they need, and what you can do to help. Committee work is a *great* way to accomplish something worthwhile while having fun and spending time with wonderful people. But don't take my word for it; try it and then let me know! If committee work is "just not my thing," watch for upcoming event notices (or call me) to see if there are any special projects that excite you.

During the last week-end of July, the officers, Va'ad members and committee chairs will be meeting for our annual "Advance." We will be addressing matters of process, to develop even better working and communication procedures, and substance, to develop an overall plan for the year, a calendar of events, the revitalization of inactive com-

(continued on page 8)

Joe Zygielbaum 1938 - 1984

On Sunday, June 17, Joe Zygielbaum died at home surrounded by his lover, Sam Allen, and friends. Joe had been battling AIDS for a year and a half. He was a stained-glass designer, and our synagogue's Eternal Light was one of Joe's creations. Our condolences to Sam and Joe's family and friends. *Zichrono L'vracha* — May His Memory Be Blessed.

All Family Coalition *(continued from page 1)*

provide an appropriate religious and social justice response to the convening of Family Forum III in our city.

Michael Wyatt, in *The Parsonage News*, states that: "There is no hope in families that are rigid in their values, authoritarian in their pronouncements, hostile and power-clutching in their substructure, and bitter and pessimistic about humanity.... These families submit to and cooperate with a worldview that punishes those [who] don't live by its oppressing values, that uses religion as a weapon.... Intolerance, persecution, pogroms, 'final solutions,' all grow out of this frightened obsession with purity. There is no room in their vision of heaven for the other, there is therefore no room on earth."

The activities currently being planned by the All Family Coalition are as follows:

Wednesday, July 11

- Worship Service organized by Gay and Lesbian Christian and Jews to honor the victims of political, racial and religious hatred, and social injustice. Grace Cathedral, 7:30 p.m.
- A 48-hour prayer vigil outside the Holiday Inn, Union Square, where Family Forum III will be convening.

Thursday, July 12

- Leafletting of the delegates to Family Forum III as they arrive for their first day of the conference.
- Press Conference featuring religious and social justice notables.
- A Peace Walk to Union Square.
- A celebration of the human family centering around the theme "We Are All Family."
- Continuation of the prayer vigil.

Friday, July 13

- Leafletting and vigil continue until the conference concludes.

What more appropriate and capable group is there than Sha'ar Zahav to display and celebrate the loving family. Please mark your calendar to attend as many of these events as possible. We will be joining many other religious groups and individuals in making a very positive statement. *Remember, the nation and the world will be watching San Francisco during this time.* For further information or to offer assistance in coordinating our Congregation's participation in these events, please contact Ron Lezell, Social Action Chair, at 647-4050.

Feldman Garden Planned

Soon, the small plot in front of the synagogue will no longer be barren. A group of friends of Mark Feldman have proposed having that area planted as a gift to the Congregation in memory of Mark. This is especially timely since the first anniversary of his death was June 2. The Va'ad accepted the gift at their June meeting, and the garden area will be planted this summer.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained several new members in June. A warm welcome to:

Donald Clark & Andrew & Victoria
David McMinn
Larry Sandifer
David Wasserman

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Building Committee Report

The Building Committee hardly needs to report to the Congregation this month — the results of months of preparation for our dedication ceremonies last month speak for themselves in the restored beauty of our new home. Everyone deserves a pat on the back, or whatever other spot feels good, for the efforts that made it all possible.

Some special thanks are in order for the crack team of workers who produced the splendid results which we now enjoy. Nancy Burns (Womanpower Painting & Wallpapering) and her crew did interior painting. Thomas A. Andert (Andert Enterprises) did exterior repair and painting. Charles Lock (Lock Electric Company) did our electrical work. Eric Dickson did our plumbing repairs. Each of these terrific people did her or his job on time, on budget, and at a price which acknowledged their wishes for our success. The Building Committee and the Congregation thank them warmly.

Now, here is the best part of this report. Aunt Yente has informed the Building Committee that she receives several letters each week from members and friends of the Congregation who are tortured with guilt and remorse for not having made a larger financial contribution before our dedication ceremonies. Have we got news for you! Your days of shame and anxiety are over at last. the Building Committee is pleased to report that there is much left to be done in finishing and furnishing our new home, and you can make it all come true! For example, did you notice that lovely fabric forlornly clinging to the Levelors® in our Oneg Room? It's just hanging around waiting for someone with a big heart to help adopt it into our family as draperies. Why not be a big brother or sister and Adopt-A-Drape? By the way, we need a new toilet too. Adopt-A-John? Adopt-A-Jane? We leave it in your hands.

— David R. Gellman, Chair
Building Committee

Upcoming Events

Monday, August 6 — Tisha B'Av Service, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 19 — Castro Street Fair

Duff Burton Kreitzberg 1943-1984

After a long illness, Duff Kreitzberg, beloved member of the Congregation, died on June 9 at Children's Hospital with many of his friends and his mother having come to be with him that evening. About three months ago, his mother, Lea, had come to San Francisco from her home in Jerusalem to be with Duff during his illness. At her request, funeral services were held on Sunday, June 10, at our synagogue, with many of his friends participating in the service with readings, poetry, reminiscences and eulogies. The first such service to be held by our Congregation, it proved to be an incredibly expressive and supportive experience for his mourners. Lea expressed her gratitude to Duff's and now her family at Sha'ar Zahav for this.

Duff's obituary included the following statement: "...son of the late Herman of Jamaica, New York and Lea of Jerusalem, Israel; devoted brother of Nele Rand of New York; granted a B.A. in 1963 and an M.A. in 1965 from NYU; Mr. Kreitzberg also studied at the New School for Social Research, the Univ. of Maine and the Univ. of California at Berkeley; member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, SF; Mr. Kreitzberg was also a published writer of prose and poetry." He requested that any donations be made to the American Cancer Society or to Sha'ar Zahav.

Duff was not a public member of Sha'ar Zahav. His formal involvement was in behind-the-scenes work, mostly working with the Public Relations Committee. Many members, however, have rich, personal remembrances of Duff as a valued friend. Many of his friends shared his love of poetry; his own writing was substantial. One of his poems special to many members of the Congregation was a bit of reporting on a picnic/softball game which was published in the June 1983 *Forward* as "Nine Inning Stanzas."

Much more can be said, but perhaps said best by quoting excerpts from Paul Cohen's eulogy given on June 10.

Eulogy For Duff

We are here today because of our love and respect for the life of Duff, because we recognize the impact he has had on us during his four short decades with us. Duff was a teacher, a critic, a writer, a lover and a friend. He knew how to give of himself in a way that is all too uncommon today. Each of us was with him to be heard, listened to and helped.

He was not a saint and knew how to be biting in his criticism, but his wit and gentleness always triumphed.

Duff knew how to give and each of us received from him as we needed.

Some of you are more fortunate than I. I feel cheated, because I did not know Duff during the many years in which he was a healthy and vital man. The Duff I knew, worked hard to fight for his life. He did not go gently, but asked for and received a variety of treatments to rid his body of the scourge of cancer. He fought silently and without asking for pity. He had courage and dignity and a fierce sense of independence which served him well during his hardest times. On the few rare occasions that he asked for help, you knew that it was really needed and give it willingly.

During the past two years, our congregation became increasingly a part of his life: as he met people he enjoyed being with and because he too became caught up with our dream of a home of our own. He tried to teach us how to tell our story with a message which would open up hearts.

Duff left each of us particular memories and for many of us an important lesson. Our synagogue was founded to serve as an outreach to the gay and lesbian community. Duff was a cherished member, and it was his own mother who recognized the value it had for him and asked that his services be held here, in our sanctuary, among his friends who he loved. During the past 12 weeks, Duff and his mother Lea shared his one-bedroom apartment. She cared for him, but he set the pace and made the decisions, just as he had tried to do throughout his life. Lea, if truth be told, is a typical Jewish mother and tried every trick in her repertoire to help him, feed him and keep him occupied.

These last 12 weeks were important for them both. Duff lived because of Lea's love and devotion, and Lea showed us that a mother's love does not change with one's sexual orientation. How sad that it is too often the case that the rekindling of love and devotion comes with an illness and cannot be shared by each of us with our loved ones each day. That I believe is Duff's final teaching to us all. Life is much shorter than we think, and we have it within our power to learn how to forgive and to reach out to those we love and have them become a part of our lives once again.

Although he will no longer be physically with us, his life was rich and giving and we are here as proof. May our memories of his love for each of us help us through our loneliness and our missing him. His short life was a beacon and a light to us all.

— Paul Cohen

Reflections Before Shabbat

The Education Committee is pleased to announce that our program of Reflections Before Shabbat will resume on July 20 at 7:30 p.m. July reflections will feature a 30-minute music program to help us get into the mood for Shabbat. Mark this and every third Shabbat on your calendar. Come early to *shul* — and prepare for Shabbat with us.

New UAHC Member

Mazel tov to our sibling gay congregation, Or Chadash of Chicago, for its recent election into the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Or Chadash now becomes the fourth gay/lesbian synagogue to join the Reform movement, following Etz Chaim, Miami; Beth Chayim Chadashim, LA; and Sha'ar Zahav.

In Case You Missed It...

**Photos of the Dedication Ceremony on May 20.
All photos by Yolande Schneeman.**



The moving finale to the Torah Procession.

A Home of Our Own — the Video

The dedication of "A Home of Our Own" on May 20 was videotaped and the editing is finally finished. The tape covers the entire dedication ceremony, including the speeches and the singing, the Torah procession and candid shots of the reception. The premier showing has been scheduled for June 22, and the tape is available in both VHS and Beta formats at a cost of \$35 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. An order form is enclosed with this issue of the *Forward*. Any sibling congregations who would like to show the tape should contact the CSZ office to make arrangements.



Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver presenting President Mike Rankin with a Certificate of Honor to the Congregation from the Board of Supervisors, with Supervisor Louise Renne.



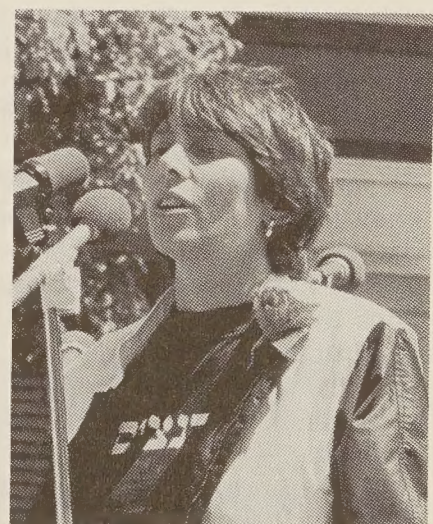
The Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble in their public debut: l. to r.: Talia Shafir, Jill Rose, Cheryl Orvis, Ron Lezell, Leslie Bergson, Eric Keitel, Jon Funk, David Gellman and Harvey Bartnof.



Don Albert, Chair of the Building Campaign, expressing thanks to those who worked hard for the success of the campaign.



Long-time friend of Sha'ar Zahav, Isabelle Fishman, with Past-President Cheryl Orvis and President Mike Rankin.



Talia Shafir, in a beautiful rendition of Holly Near's Mountain Song.

Thoughts on Dedication

From a sermon on May 18

NOW THAT WE FIND OURSELVES AT THE BEGINNING of our dedication weekend, I remember that now-famous five-hour meeting in February 1983 when we decided to raise the money to buy this building. As we got more and more excited about having a home of our own, someone said, "And we can have a dedication ceremony for it..." and Don Albert answered, "Let's worry about getting the money first, then we'll worry about dedicating the synagogue." And he was right. We did indeed worry about the money, and now, for the last few months, we've been worrying about the dedication ceremony. I tell you, if you hang around here long enough, you get to worry about everything.

We've been talking about dedicating the synagogue for so long that I had to stop and take time to think about what it meant. The phrase "dedicating a building" doesn't mean much. The verb "dedicate" itself doesn't mean much unless it's "to" something. What are we dedicating to what?

Well, there aren't a lot of things you can dedicate, except yourself. And you can dedicate yourself to a lot of things, but you can't dedicate anyone else, nor can anyone else dedicate you to anything. The act of dedication is a personal one, and what we choose to dedicate ourselves to becomes a fairly good definition of who we are. And we do, almost all of us, find something to dedicate ourselves to — people, places, concepts, dreams — and it becomes these somethings that make our lives worthwhile to us. Furthermore, that which we dedicate ourselves to gives back to us what we put into it. And that brings us to the topic of this week's *sedrah*.

This week's *sedrah* is *B'chukotai*, the last portion in Leviticus. The book of Leviticus contains most of what we consider the "laws" of Judaism, and this *sedrah* sums up by reciting briefly the rewards of following God's commandments and — not so briefly — the dire consequences of disregarding them. There is only one thing that saves this portion from being the simplistic reward-and-punishment lesson it appears to be at first, and that is the nature of the laws themselves. Many of the laws deal with compassion, humaneness, the responsibility of one human for another. We refer to God's commandments by their Hebrew word — *mitzvot*. In common speech, we tend to use the word "*mitzvah*" to mean "good deed", but the meaning is almost the same. The act of following a commandment results in the end product of a good deed. The consequences — good or bad — of following or not following the commandments are a natural result of our own actions toward each other. God is not saying — if I dare paraphrase — "If you disobey, I will do terrible things to you." It's more like, "This is now you should be treating each other, and if you don't, you'll make yourselves miserable."

It isn't easy to lead a life by the precepts and principles of Judaism. It doesn't make for a comfortable life, or an uncomplicated life. In fact, it requires dedication, and requires it even more so in a world which grows increasingly less compassionate, less concerned with the uniqueness of

human life. It requires great dedication in a world where it is easy to dedicate oneself to gain, or trying to make oneself safe, or, most sad and telling, to nothing much in particular.

The world is a big place, and there's a lot wrong with it — so much, that even if you choose to devote your life to serving it, you hardly know how to start. This synagogue gives us a place to start. It gives us an opportunity to care for others within a caring community. It gives us the opportunity to dedicate ourselves to something worthwhile, to something that will return to us all that we put into it, and more. We consecrate this building as a synagogue tonight, as a home for our community, as a sanctuary in more meanings than one, but that which we dedicate is ourselves.

— Leslie Bergson, Chair
Ritual Committee

Vigil for Soviet Jewry

Under the auspices of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry, Sha'ar Zahav has joined a dozen other Jewish organizations in a daily vigil outside the Soviet Consulate, 2790 Green Street, near Baker. Our responsibility is to appear on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to noon, with placards provided by a 90-year old Russian immigrant, to protest the oppression of Jews in the Soviet Union. Since there is only one Soviet Consulate in the U.S. — in San Francisco — we have a rare opportunity to make our voices heard. If you would like to join in this peaceful protest, please come to the Consulate *by 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 11*, or on any 2nd Wednesday of the month thereafter. For further information, contact Ron Lezell, Social Action Chair, at 647-4050.

New Computer Whiz

Our members and regular readers who receive the *Forward* by mail may have noticed new mailing labels this past month or two. After providing the data base for most Congregational records for 4 long years, Alan Schrager has passed on that substantial task to Alita Rosenfeld. Our thanks and gratitude to Alan for his unflagging labors on behalf of the Congregation.

And our thanks in advance to Alita for taking over this responsibility. She is adding birthdays, *yahrzeits* and anniversaries to the computer records as well — hopefully this coming year, we'll manage not to miss anyone! Some errors may have slipped in during the transfer, however, so should we miss a date or should there be an error in your mailing label, give the office a call.

Completing our home computer staff, Jerry Rosenstein is continuing to work with the Treasurer to track all the Congregation's financial records — a never-ending task as well.

1984

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Tammuz 1 Rosh Chodesh	2 2 Finance Comm. 5:15pm 111 Caselli	3 3	4 4	5 5	6 6 Anniversary Service	7 7
8 8	9 9 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm	10 10 Newsletter Deadline	11 11 All Family Coalition; Vigil for Soviet Jewry, Ron 647-4050	12 12 All Family Coalition Ron 647-4050 Newsletter Comm. Alex 648-4818	13 13 All Family Coalition Ron 647-4050	14 14
15 15 National March for Gay & Lesbian Rights Eric 821-4257	16 16	17 17 Fast of Tammuz Education Comm. Lecture 7:30pm Jodi Hirsch	18 18	19 19	20 20 Reflection Before Shabbat 7:30pm	21 21
22 22	23 23	24 24 East Bay Lunch Group — Lenny at 451-1850	25 25	26 26 Ritual Comm. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, Fl.2 Newsletter Mailing Alex 648-4818	27 27 Leadership Advance	28 28 Leadership Advance
29 29 Leadership Advance	1 Av 30 Rosh Chodesh	2 31				

Ritual Calendar — July

Friday July 6	Sha'ar Zahav Anniversary Service Parshah: Balak, Num. 22:2-25:9 Haftarah: Micah 5:6-6:8 Daniel Chesir, Services
Friday July 13	Parshah: Pinhas, Num. 25:10-30:1 Haftarah: I Kings 18:46; 19:31 Garry Koenigsberg, Services
Friday July 20	Parshah: Mattot, Num. 30:2-32:42 Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3 Eric Keitel, Services
Friday July 27	Parshah: Massei, Num. 33:1-36:13 Haftarah: Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4 Steve Greenberg, Services

Services are held every Friday night at 8:15 at our new home, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

Ritual Preview — August

Friday August 3	Shabbat Hazon Parshah: D'varim, Deut. 1:1-3:22 Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27 Jon Funk, Services
Monday August 6	Tisha B'Av Service, 7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee and Friends
Friday August 10	Shabbat Nachmu Parshah: Va-Etehanan, Deut. 3:23-7:11 Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26 Ritual Committee and Friends, Services

Remember to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number or job, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund —

Don Gordon, for our Oneg Shabbats

Jay Feinstein, in memory of his father, Hyman Feinstein

Leslie Bergson, in memory of William Anderson and Harold Bloomfield

Mark Mendelow, in honor of David Stein's birthday

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of the Congregation

David Kirp, in honor of all the musical Friday evening services

Steve Elman, in honor of David Stein's birthday

Elaine & Alan Orvis, in honor of the dedication of our building

For the Building Fund (general) —

Isabelle Fishman, in honor of our new building

Jonathan Funk, in honor of Shira Tzipora Erdfarb's birthday, in honor of the engagement of Terri Canepa & Martin Brown, in appreciation for helping me move to my new home: Ron Lezell, Judah Katz, Alex Ingersoll, David Stein, James Carlson & Gerry Wood

Ron Lezell, in honor of the dedication of our building

For the Education Fund —

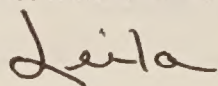
Violet Keeperman, in memory of Mitchell Yagid

President's Column *(continued from page 2)*

mittees, and the creation of a scope and mission for committee activity. In the September issue of the *Forward*, separate from the Advance report, we will begin printing notices from committees about their mission and plans for the year. I expect the breadth of programming will afford each member at least one area in which s/he can happily become interested and involved. *Alevai*, it will also excite non-members so much that they will join us!

I hope all members will keep themselves aware of issues pending before the Va'ad. The monthly Va'ad report, always in the *Forward*, is the best source of that information. I have initiated a policy whereby major issues are not voted upon during their first hearing by the Va'ad. They will appear in the Va'ad report as upcoming matters for consideration, thereby allowing interested members to attend the meeting and/or make their views known by dropping a note to any officer or Va'ad member. I would be most happy to receive such correspondence.

During the last few months, I have done a great deal of thinking about and planning for our Congregation. The belief I hold with most certainty is that our strength is in our caring and our togetherness. That is what I want us all to foster, to build upon and to enhance. We are myriad, we are loving, we are powerful, and we shall continue to be. Together we make it all happen!



Va'ad Report

THE JUNE VA'AD MEETING was held at 220 Danvers Street on Monday evening, June 11. Treasurer David Stein led the meeting as President Mike Rankin was out of town. This was the last meeting for the 1983-84 officers and Va'ad, since the newly elected leadership will begin their terms on July 1.

Major topics on the agenda included:

The Membership Committee recommended three new individuals for membership, who were approved by acclamation. Chair Allan Berenstein also reported on the success of the membership picnic/volleyball game in Golden Gate Park on June 3.

The Rabbi Search Committee confirmed that the second rabbinical candidate would be arriving for interviews on June 14 and would be attending services on June 15. The Va'ad will meet informally with the candidate on June 16.

The Education Committee announced several new programs, including a monthly lecture/discussion series to begin July 17. The Committee will also be resuming its meditation/reflection series on the third Friday of each month beginning July 20.

The Va'ad voted to produce new Sha'ar Zahav T-shirts, to be ready in time for the Lesbian/Gay Day Parade.

Ron Lezell, Social Action Chair, presented a report on the activities surrounding the Moral Majority sponsored Family Forum III, to take place in San Francisco just before the Democratic convention. Ron recommended that we support the program organized by the All Family Coalition. After discussion regarding the appropriateness of our participation in such political-action events, the Va'ad concluded that it is important that Sha'ar Zahav have a presence at such events. Ron will continue to coordinate our involvement in this event. The Va'ad also voted to participate in the National March for Gay and Lesbian Rights to be held July 15. Eric Keitel agreed to be our liaison with the march committee.

The Va'ad voted to begin searching for a part-time synagogue administrator. It was felt that as the congregation becomes more complex, the work load and possible duties of the office staff increases and we need to have a skilled administrator working for us. A detailed job description has been developed and notices will be published shortly.

The Va'ad voted to accept as a gift the planting of the plot in front of the building. Funded by a group of Mark Feldman's friends, the garden will be dedicated in memory of Mark.

The Va'ad also passed a policy statement that our facilities be available to members and friends of the Congregation in good standing, as defined in the Bylaws, for all life cycle ceremonies.

Finally, the Va'ad voted to place the Israeli and American flags on the *bimah*.

As this is the last Va'ad report I will be writing for this year, I want to say that I have enjoyed being Recorder of the Congregation these past 12 months. May our family continue to grow and prosper over this next year and for many years to come.

Shalom.

— Eric Keitel, Recorder

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Why are we not allowed to eat pork?

Questioning on Quintara

Dear Questioning,

We're not allowed to eat pork? Uh oh.

Aunt Yente's just having her little joke (and stealing it from Woody Allen, at that). Since she was a little *balabusta*, Aunt Yente knew that eating pork was a very terrible thing to do, almost like paying retail. (What has gotten into Aunt Yente today? Please excuse her.) The rule against eating pork is only one of the dietary laws in the Bible, but it is probably the most well-known.

Actually, the Bible says we shouldn't eat, not just *chazer*, but any animal which does not both chew its cud and have split hooves. A cow chews its cud and has split hooves, as do sheep, deer and goats; these are kosher, and we can eat them. But pigs, which have split hooves but do not chew their cud, may not be eaten; just like rabbits, which chew their cud but do not have split hooves.

With fish come different rules. (A nice white wine isn't bad either.) Fish are not kosher unless they have fins and scales. So salmon, sole, and snapper are fine, but all that nouveau stuff like crab and mussels and squid are not kosher. (You think your Aunt Yente doesn't know from California cuisine? Wait till you taste her mesquite-broiled *flanken* with walnut oil.) For Aunt Yente's wealthy relatives, there are real *tsuris*: sturgeon don't have scales all year, so caviar (*oy vey*) is not kosher.

There are still more rules about which birds and which insects can be eaten, but we'll let these alone, for the time being — especially the rules on insects. There are a few more rules applicable to animals that you should know about.

The Bible says, "Do not cook a kid in its mother's milk." From this, the rabbis extrapolated a law against any mixing of meat and milk products, or even using the same utensils for both.

The Bible says, "Do not eat any animal that has died by itself or that you find torn (in Hebrew, *t'raifa*) by wild beasts." (*T'raifa* now has come to mean anything not kosher). From this and other things, the rabbis ruled that only ritually slaughtered animals can be eaten, and then only if the animal, on inspection, was a healthy one. (If an animal has a tumor, for example, the U.S.D.A. permits cutting it off and using the rest of the meat; under our law, the whole animal is not kosher.)

The Bible says, "Do not eat blood." From this, the rabbis decided that meat could not be eaten unless it was soaked and salted to remove the blood.

Also, because Jacob was kicked in the groin by an angel, we don't eat the rear half of animals. (Rib steak yes, sirloin no.)

Reciting the rules of *kashrut* — our dietary laws — is easy for your Aunt Yente. Harder is trying to decide what they mean to Jews in the 20th century. Our orthodox friends say, "It's God's law. We obey it. End of discussion." Some of our Reform friends say, "It's a mass of outdated health laws and

tribal taboos, with no more meaning for us." Aunt Yente says, "Can we talk?"

Some of these laws do not make sense to us. Why is gefilte fish holy and *ciappino* not? Why can we eat lamb, but not rabbit? Why does brisket cost \$2.29 a pound and it's not even nice? Other parts of the *kashrut* laws are very *seicheldik*. Aunt Yente does not want to eat meat from animals with diseases. As for milk, it is part of how mothers of any species give life to their young; that it should not be used to cook other animals after they've been killed is simple decency, which has not changed in 4000 years.

Your Aunt Yente is not foolish enough to try to tell anyone which dietary law they should or should not obey. But she does hope that no one forgets what the laws are for. There are no dietary laws for vegetables and fruit; all vegetable matter is kosher. Only when we begin killing animals for food are there restrictions. What *kashrut* is designed to teach us is that in eating animals, we are taking life. We are permitted to do this, to kill animals and use them for food, but we are not permitted to do it thoughtlessly. *Kashrut* forces us to pay attention to what the animal's habits and health are when it is alive, to be aware of how it is killed, and even to treat it with a measure of decency afterwards.

For some, following the orthodox dietary rules helps them see their responsibilities in meat-eating. Others are experimenting with a "new *kashrut*," which tries to combine the moral teaching of traditional *kashrut* with current issues. For example, "milk-fed" veal and mass produced chickens are said to be raised under disgusting and cruel conditions. Some people therefore consider these not kosher, even though they will eat pork and shrimp. As modern Jews, you and Aunt Yente both must decide what laws to obey.

All this is well and good, but Aunt Yente realizes she still hasn't precisely answered your question. Why are we not allowed to eat pork? Aunt Yente does not know.

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in the *Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope. All material © 1984 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

ATTORNEY

DAVID R. GELLMAN

(415) 621-2966

- Contracts & Leases
- Estate Planning & Wills
- Real Estate
- Business Law & Litigation

45 Franklin St., San Francisco 94102

Reasonable Fees

Weekend & Evening
Appointments

July Birthdays!

- 3 Leigh Star
- 4 Mickey Bornstein
- 7 Betty Kalis
- 8 Ben Schalit
- 9 Steve Elman
- 9 Bob Goldware
- 11 Laurent-Bo Gasperini
- 12 Shelly Wald
- 16 Alice Perlman
- 20 Joan Blazewick
- 22 Barbara Nabors-Glass
- 23 Nancy Meyer
- 24 Abigail Abbuehl
- 28 David Levine
- 29 Steve Lowinger
- 30 Prudence Carter

Belated Birthday wishes to:

Larry Sandifer (June 6)
Steve Stone (June 18)

July Yahrzeits

- 1 William S. Gross, Father of Roger Gross
- 2 Frank S. Walter, Father of Julia Walter
- 8 Edward Ingersoll, Father of Alex Ingersoll
- 15 Clara Magoon, Aunt of Betty Kalis
- 16 Nelly Meyer, Mother of Nancy Meyer
- 17 Steve Berman, Friend of the Congregation
- 24 Adele K., Mother of Ida K.
- 28 Harry A. Benderoff, Father of Bart Benderoff
- 28 (28 Tamuz) Samuel Irving Toporek, Father of Elliott Toporek

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of May, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

- May 4 — Diana Buchbinder & Joyce Garay, in honor of Aaron's first birthday.
- May 11 — The Va'ad, in honor of the Congregation
- May 18 — Don Albert, in honor of the Building Steering Committee, all those who worked on the building campaign and the members of the current Building Committee who made the building beautiful for the Dedication.
- May 25 — Steve Greenberg, in honor of Bob Mackey's new job, & Bob Mackey, in honor of Steve Greenberg's new job.

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Larry Cohen (493-0535) or Peter Abinanti (441-0276), see one of them at an Oneg or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$30-40 to (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Classified Ads

GUITAR LESSONS: Learn to play what you hear around you and inside you. Learn songs, music theory and improvisation — painlessly. All levels. Have fun! I love to teach! Suzanne P. Shanbaum, 261-0791.

LOSE WEIGHT NOW: Ask me how. Want to gain weight, maintain weight or want more energy? Call Peter at 441-0276.

POSITION AVAILABLE: For a special person who would like to coordinate distribution of classy newsletter for dynamic gay/lesbian synagogue. Work with an established, able staff, 1-2 nights a month. On-the-job training available. For more info, call Alex Ingersoll (648-4818) or Bob Goldware (928-3370).

NOW HERE'S A DEAL: 3 br. Russian River Home w/deck for sale by owner. Redwood forest setting, livable year round. Knotty pine interior, carpeted, wood-burning stove. Assumable mortgage. Priced under \$60,000 for fast sale. Burt Tessler, 558-8882.



CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California 94114
(415) 861-6932

Officers: President, Leila Raim; Vice President, Don Albert; Treasurer, David Stein; Recorder, Mark Mendlow

Va'ad (Board) Members: Allan Berenstein, Leslie Bergson, Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Ron Lezell, Nancy Meyer, Cheryl Orvis, Jerry Rosenstein, Sharyn Saslafsky

Committee Chairs: Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus; Building, David Gellman; Bylaws, David Gass; Education, Jonathan G.; Finance, Tom Rothgiesser; Membership, Allan Berenstein; Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll; Oneg, Larry Cohen and Peter Abinanti; Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky; Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper; Ritual, Leslie Bergson; Social Action, Ron Lezell; Women's Chavurah, Chair shared by committee.

Office Manager: Susan Greenspan (Office is open Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.) **Emergency Number:** At other times the Congregation can be contacted in an emergency situation by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.